

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as instructed to by my platoon commander [REDACTED]. The main synopsis of this letter is my recollection of the events that happened [REDACTED] on the early morning of Tuesday, December 11, 2012.

On that date at approximately 0200 hrs. I was in bed and asleep when I woke to a set of very loud banging sounds. Less than one minute later I heard more sets of loud banging noises, which sounded like something was banging against my house or that someone was breaking into my house. I woke my wife and I heard more banging coming from the front of my house. I got up, grabbed my phone, a flashlight and loaded my gun. I turned on my outside lights to my house and saw nobody. I exited my house to see if me or my wife's vehicles were broken into or damaged and I observed my wife's car to have remnants of eggs on the front windshield and the passenger side of her vehicle appeared to be hit with eggs as well. I then called the Framingham police to notify them that my wife's car had been vandalized.

As I spoke to the Framingham police dispatcher on the phone I further inspected my house to find several

splatters of eggs against my house as well. As I was still speaking to the dispatcher on the phone while standing in my driveway, I observed a small red car drive by my house very slowly. I watched the car stop at the corner of my street and [REDACTED] (the next street intersecting my street) and I observed two males get out of the car and walk on both sides of my street back towards my house. I informed the police dispatcher (who I was still on the line with) that I believed that the people involved in vandalizing my house were back and walking towards my house again. These two individuals on foot saw me in my drive way and then one began walking briskly down [REDACTED] and the other appeared to attempt to hide in a yard belonging to my next door neighbor across my street. I then observed this male turn around and began to walk up my street, away from the direction of my house. I then told these observations of the men and the car and their directions of travel. The dispatcher stated that Framingham Police now had units in the area and one would meet me by my house. I hung up with the dispatcher and waited in my driveway.

After approximately 25 minutes had passed and no one from the Framingham police responded to my residence. I then called the Framingham Police Station asking if they had caught anyone in my neighborhood. The dispatcher then connected me to a line and I spoke to a Framingham Police Sergeant Phil Hurton. I then told Sergeant Hurton who I was and I also told him that

I was [REDACTED] Sergeant Hurton stated to me that earlier he responded to the call at my residence and while he was travelling on my street he stopped two males who identified themselves as off duty Newton Police Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Sergeant Hurton stated to me that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] admitted to him that they were just playing a prank on a co-employee. Sergeant Hurton asked me if these individuals worked for me and I told him yes they did. Sergeant Hurton stated that he found egg cartons in [REDACTED] vehicle as well. Sergeant Hurton asked me if I wanted a police report on this matter and I told him I did not and that I would handle it at work. Being totally embarrassed and angered by this situation I thanked Sergeant Hurton for his efforts and apologized for my subordinates actions.

I then had to leave my house and take a drive to settle down. I drove to a local store and while returning my wife contacted me via cell phone and informed me that Sergeant Hurton was now at our house looking to speak to me. As I was getting closer to my residence I met Sergeant Hurton close by my house and he told me that one of his officers had just found another Off Duty Newton Police Officer intoxicated and in someone's yard on [REDACTED]. Sergeant Hurton stated that the off duty officer most recently found was [REDACTED]. Sergeant Hurton also stated to me that one of his officers was going to give [REDACTED] a ride back home to [REDACTED]. Sergeant Hurton again asked me if I wanted this

incident documented and I told him no, and that I would handle this matter at work. I then returned to my house and wife. I then contacted [REDACTED] on his cell phone and informed him of the matter and asked him for advice. [REDACTED] advised me that should also speak to [REDACTED] and inform him on the matter. I told [REDACTED] that I would speak [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] about this incident later in the day.

Then later on in the morning I spoke to [REDACTED] and he advised me to go to [REDACTED] and inform him of this situation. That afternoon I spoke to [REDACTED] and informed him of the incident and asked him for advice. [REDACTED] stated to me I could either go and report the matter to Newton Police Internal Affairs or I could informally handle this on my own with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and see if they would make restitution of the damage they caused to my property and make personal amends and apologies to me and my wife. [REDACTED] stated to me that he would support my decision if I chose either route. A short time later I informed [REDACTED] that I would handle the matter with the three unofficially. Approximately a half an hour later [REDACTED] approached me at a detail I was working and apologized sincerely for what had happened. [REDACTED] stated that he, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would pay any bills that would cover the cleaning of my wife's car and to the cleaning of my house. I informed [REDACTED] that he was to apologize

to my wife as well and he stated that he would do so immediately. I accepted [REDACTED] apology and I stated I would take up on his offer to make restitution. A half hour later [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] showed up at my detail and apologized several times for their actions and reiterated the same offer as [REDACTED] had previously given. Once again I accepted their apologies and their offers of restitution as resolution of this matter. Since then I have received several apologies from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. All three of these officers have sent my wife a edible arrangement bouquet as a token of their apologies.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012 at approximately 1130 hrs. [REDACTED] contacted me and he informed this matter could no longer be handled informally by myself and that he informed the Chief of Police of the incident. I then spoke to [REDACTED] on the phone and he instructed me to write a "Dear Chief" outlining these past events.

My wife and I have been able to clean up most of the egg residue off of my house and my wife's car. The only remaining damage to any of my property is a broken screen on one of my house windows that was penetrated by an egg. My wife took pictures of all egg splatters on the house before they were cleaned off.

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chief Howard Mintz
From: [REDACTED]
Date: December 16, 2012

Dear Sir,

On the morning of December 11, 2012, at approximately 0130hrs, I was off duty; along with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We were in the Framingham area and were aware that several officers lived in the same neighborhood, and had played numerous pranks on each other throughout the years, including [REDACTED] It should be noted that I have been to [REDACTED] residence on prior occasions and have often joked with him that he refers to his residence as "Shangri-La". When we got to his residence [REDACTED] and I exited the vehicle on an adjacent street. We then proceeded to throw egg in the direction of [REDACTED]

I was later picked up, by [REDACTED] on another street in the neighborhood and we drove on a few streets in the neighborhood to find the others. We then picked up [REDACTED] and returned to [REDACTED] residence. Shortly thereafter, a Framingham officer dropped off [REDACTED] Our actions that night were inconsiderate and irresponsible, but they were not meant to be malicious. I have considered [REDACTED] a friend for years and I plan on considering him a friend in the future. We have never even had so much as an argument in the time that I've known him. It should be noted that a number of members in this department have been involved in other pranks/practical jokes with officers, throughout the years. These pranks, while juvenile and agreeably stupid, are part of a culture that has persisted among officers and is certainly not without history. This particular incident, like those other pranks, were meant to be nothing more than a joke among friends. Furthermore, I would not have been involved with an incident such as this with someone whom I do not have that type of friendly/joking relationship with. That is not to say that I plan on being involved in an incident such as this again.

The morning after the incident, I telephoned [REDACTED] and agreed to meet him. I apologized to him and agreed to pay any cleaning, or other fees relating to this [REDACTED] agreed to this and I further expressed my sorrow. [REDACTED] acknowledged that he thought it was a prank, and joked that if we were to do it again, to call him and he would join us. (I can assure you that I will not be involved with anything like this again) [REDACTED] and I then shook hands and agreed to talk further.

I'd like to conclude by saying that my actions have embarrassed the department in which I love to work and myself. I have been sick with regret and sorrow over all that I have lost here. I also regret the notion that this prank was pulled for any reason other than a feeble attempt to be funny, it's unfortunate that some would speculate that is so, as I have no history of conflict with any member of this department, or even that of the public or my peers.

Respectfully Submitted
[REDACTED]

In the early hours of Tuesday December 11, 2012 myself, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were together in the Framingham area. At some point a discussion took place on pranks fellow coworkers had pulled on each other over the years. Knowing that a number of those people live in the metro-west area we decided it would be funny to pull one of our own. We came across Cumberland Farms and decided to purchase eggs and to egg someone's house. At this point I was able to recall that [REDACTED] lives close by and was able to remember the street from being there in the past. After finding the street we drove down until we saw [REDACTED] car out front and I was able to recognize the house. We parked the vehicle around the corner and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] exited the vehicle while I stayed behind in the driver's seat with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the passenger seat. While waiting we were laughing about what we believed to be a prank amongst friends. At this time we decided to turn the vehicle around and after doing so we could not find anyone. We circled the block and passed back by [REDACTED] house but was not able to find anyone and did not notice anyone else. While searching the neighborhood we were pulled over by Framingham Police. I gave the officer my identification and explained to him we were playing a prank on a coworker and apologized for wasting his time. The Officer sent us on our way and we were then able to make contact with and pick up [REDACTED] While picking him up we were approached by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as well. We were unable to establish contact with [REDACTED] because he did not have his cell phone on him. At this time I returned to my residence.

The following afternoon we decided that we needed to talk to and apologize to [REDACTED] in person. We decided to meet up and approach him at his detail. As myself and [REDACTED] arrived in Newton we received a call from [REDACTED] who told us he had already gone on his own and spoke to him. After speaking to [REDACTED] I received a call from [REDACTED] I explained that I would like to talk to him in person and he told me where he was working and that he'd like that. Myself and [REDACTED] then met [REDACTED] and explained how sorry we were and that we thought at the time we were being funny. [REDACTED] explained how upset he and his wife were and that he did not know how to handle the situation. He told us he had notified [REDACTED] but explained to him he wanted to handle it on his own. We again apologized for any problems we caused and explained that we would do anything we could to make things right between us. [REDACTED] told us that he wanted us to pay for his vehicle to be detailed, his house power washed and an apology to his wife. We stated that was more than fair and if there was anything else to let us know. Again we stated how sorry we were and shook hands. [REDACTED] told us that he was being pressured by other sergeants and lieutenants to drop the hammer on us to make an example, but he wanted to handle it between us. Before parting ways [REDACTED] told us that next time we go out drinking and decide to egg a house to make sure he's with us. Since the time of our meeting with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I have heard many rumors that people are saying we deliberately targeted [REDACTED] and that it was an act of aggression of patrolmen versus sergeants. This was never what was intended. I have never had an issue with [REDACTED] and always thought we were friends as well as coworkers. I looked at the act as egging [REDACTED] not egging [REDACTED]. We were simply thinking of past pranks that have been pulled amongst coworkers/friends; some of those pranks included [REDACTED] on the giving end.

I am highly embarrassed by my juvenile actions. I realize as a member of the Newton Police Department I am held to a higher standard than the general public and on that evening I did not live up to those standards. I love where I work and the people I work with and am disgusted by how my actions have affected those people.

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1321 WASHINGTON STREET
WEST NEWTON, MA. 02465



CHIEF OF POLICE:

DATE : 08/19/2012

SIR:

On 12/11/2012 I was out with some friends who are also Newton Police Officers. One of our many conversations during this time was about the seemingly endless list of pranks that have occurred between coworkers. The majority of the jokes and pranks that have occurred involve individuals that reside in the Framingham area. As we were going home, someone thought it would be funny to prank some coworkers. On the way to the neighborhood of many coworkers we procured eggs with the intention of throwing them at somebody's property as a prank. Someone in the car came up with the idea of [REDACTED] house. [REDACTED] himself has also been involved in many previous pranks, some of which included people with us at the time. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] happened to know we were in close proximity to his residence from past occasions.

Never did we consider this being perceived as anything other than what it was, a prank. In hindsight, obviously it wasn't a great idea, but there was never any intent of malice. We pranked [REDACTED] because he is a friend and a prankster himself, not because he is Police Officer and certainly not because he is a [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and I threw eggs in the vicinity of [REDACTED] driveway as part of our prank. We would later learn that one egg struck [REDACTED] house and possibly his vehicle. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] remained in the vehicle during the entire incident.

As a result of the prank, the Framingham Police responded to the scene and spoke to the involved parties. I explained my involvement to them and the officer offered to give me a ride home since [REDACTED] and the other individuals were told to leave the area. I am not sure if they generated a report as a result of this incident.

Everybody involved in the prank felt terrible about how badly this prank went awry. We clearly had not thought through all of the possible ramifications of our actions. For this we are truly sorry.

The next day [REDACTED] and I spoke to [REDACTED] in person. We expressed our regret for the incident and [REDACTED] accepted our apology. [REDACTED] stated that he knew it was a prank and said 'next time you do it, make sure I'm with you'. During this conversation [REDACTED] stated that there wasn't any damage to his home or vehicle, but we agreed that [REDACTED] house exterior and vehicle would be professionally cleaned at our expense. A short time later, all involved parties also sent a fruit basket to [REDACTED] residence because apparently his wife and children were home at the time of the incident and we wanted to apologize to them as well. [REDACTED] stated to us that he wanted to put the whole incident behind, and that he didn't want anyone else involved in the situation. [REDACTED] stated that he had at one point spoken to [REDACTED] for advice regarding how to handle the situation. [REDACTED] also told us that he was being told by other NPD supervisors to "drop the hammer" because of some recent unrelated patrolman/supervisor issues. I do not feel it is helpful for anyone to try and make this incident into something other than the prank that it was intended to be.

[REDACTED] and I have have a good personal and working relationship. While I admit that my actions on the day in question were juvenile and irresponsible, there was never any malicious intent. I exercised poor judgement and I am truly sorry for that. [REDACTED] has accepted my apology and understands that this incident was nothing more than a bad prank. Like [REDACTED] I would very much like to put this unfortunate incident behind me, I am honored to be a Newton Police Officer and I truly enjoy working with all of my brother and sister officers including [REDACTED]. I am embarrassed by my actions and I have also embarrassed the Newton Police Department as well as my family. I am confident that I will never be involved in such an incident again.

Respectfully Submitted;

[REDACTED]

Dear Chief Mintz,

On December 11th 2012, I was in Framingham with [REDACTED]. During the night we were discussing all the pranks that have been done by employees of the Newton Police Department against one another.

At one point of the night it was decided that we should pull a harmless prank on a coworker that lived in the area. We then stopped to get eggs. Someone in the vehicle knew where [REDACTED] lived and we headed in that direction. [REDACTED] pulled the vehicle around the corner from [REDACTED] house. [REDACTED] and myself waited in the car while [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got out of the vehicle and headed towards [REDACTED] house. At this time [REDACTED] turned the car around and we then could not see the others involved. We drove around the block looking for them and were unable to find them. We were pulled over by Framingham Police while looking in the area. [REDACTED] explained to the Framingham Officer why we were in the area and the Officer sent us on our way. We were then able to locate [REDACTED]. We were unable to get in touch with [REDACTED] because he did not have his cell phone on him. We then met [REDACTED] at his residence.

Before and during this incident I thought that this was a harmless prank. Due to my current situation if I had thought that it was more than harmless prank I would have asked to be dropped off or tried to talk others out of it.

I have had a good relationship with [REDACTED] in the past. We worked together as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for a few years and had a good work relationship. I have recently had a friendly phone conversation with him.

I now realize the incident I was involved with on this night was childish and can not be explained rationally. I apologize for being involved in such a dumb prank. I have always tried to act in a responsible manner since taking this job and I sincerely regret the decisions that were made that night.

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Chief Mintz,

During the early morning hours of Tuesday, December 11, 2012 myself, [REDACTED] were out in the Framingham area. While out we were talking about some of the pranks that officers have pulled over the years, and decided that it would be funny if we pranked someone we worked with. While in the Framingham area we got eggs. After getting the eggs, [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] lives in the area and knew how to get to his house. [REDACTED] was not picked out individually, his house happened to be close.

When we found [REDACTED] house myself, [REDACTED] got outside of the vehicle and threw a few eggs each in the direction of [REDACTED] property. At this time [REDACTED] were driving around in [REDACTED] vehicle attempting to pick the three of us up in the neighborhood. The three of us that were outside of the vehicle began to scatter as [REDACTED] drove away. A little while later I was picked up by [REDACTED] was in the car at the time as well. At this time we were still looking for [REDACTED] but couldn't locate him due to the fact that he didn't have his cell phone on him. Throughout this whole incident we thought we were being funny and harmless or else we would have thought better of it.

I never thought that this most recent prank could potentially get so out of hand. I truly regret this decision as I wouldn't want to ruin my reputation, but more importantly the reputation of my family and the Newton Police Department.

Personally, I have never had any problems with [REDACTED] and I work for him all four of my nights. We were in the area of his house and we thought that [REDACTED] would understand that it was a joke and only acted out as a prank by fellow officers, as he has been in incidents in the past to my understanding. This incident was clearly never planned and was a spur of the moment idea. If we had planned this out, we would have understood how unprofessional this was. This was never an attempt to attack [REDACTED] this was only meant to be a harmless prank on someone we considered a friend and someone we assumed would take it as a joke and only that way.

Immediately after the fact we realized what an immature action this was. I have had no problems with any of the officers in the [REDACTED] time that I have been on the NPD. In fact I have appreciated all the support that I have gotten from other patrolman and supervisors extending all

the way to the Chiefs level. Being one of the [REDACTED] officers, I feel that I have always respected senior officers and definitely supervisors in the past, specifically [REDACTED] as he is my [REDACTED]. This was never meant to be an attack, and I hope that fellow and superior officers don't view it that way. I have appreciated every moment since beginning the Police Academy in [REDACTED]. This act was obviously a foolish act and the guilt that I have felt since the incident hasn't left and the incident is rarely off my mind.

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]